

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-17, and 25-27 were pending in this application. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 17, 25, and 26 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,279,290 ("Richardson"), claim 4 was rejected as being obvious in view of Richardson, claim 8 was rejected as being obvious over Richardson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,085,469 ("Wolfe"), claims 10, 11, and 27 were rejected as being obvious over Richardson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,449,910 ("Budd"), and claims 14-16 were allowed. By way of this amendment, claims 1, 2, 25 and 26 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-17, and claims 25-27 remain pending and at issue.

With regard to the anticipation rejection of claim 1, applicants respectfully submit that Richardson fails to disclose each and every element of the claim and, therefore, fails to anticipate the rejected claims.¹

Claim 1, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, specifies, *inter alia*, an exposure surface perpendicularly bisecting and integral to the support web and including flanges projecting outwardly in opposing lateral directions.

Richardson fails to disclose such elements. First, the exposure surface (30) of Richardson is not integral to the support web (10) as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Contrary to integral, the exposure surface (12) is removably connected to the support web (10). More specifically, as seen in Figs. 1 and 2 in Richardson, the exposure surface (12) includes a pair of flaps (34) that engage a U-shaped portion (20) disposed on the end of the support web (10). As such, the exposed surface (12) can be connected and removed from the support web (10) by manipulating the flaps (34). Additionally, the exposure surface (12) in Richardson does not include flanges (30) that project outwardly in opposing lateral directions. The flanges (30) in Richardson, as seen in Figs. 1 and 2, rather project in the same downward direction, and not in outwardly opposing lateral directions. The applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that the anticipation rejection should be withdrawn.

With regard to the anticipation rejection of claim 9, the applicants respectfully submit that Richardson fails to disclose each and every element of the claim and, therefore, fails to anticipate the rejected claims.

¹ "Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires the disclosure in a single piece of prior art of each and every limitation of a claimed invention." *Rockwell International Corp. v. United States*, 47 USPQ2d 1027 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

Claim 9, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, specifies, *inter alia*, an exposure surface having a slight negative slope corresponding to a slope of the at least one roof panel, and a support web integral with and perpendicularly bisecting the exposure surface.

Richardson fails to disclose such elements. For the same reasons as identified above, the exposure surface (30) in Richardson is not integral to the support web (10). Additionally, Richardson discloses a combination roof panel and roof structure wherein the roof structure part (220) includes a *substantially* negative slope that intersects a slope of the roof panel at an angle of approximately 45 degrees. Thus, Richardson does not have an exposure surface that has a "slight negative slope," nor does it have a slope that "corresponds" to a slope of the roof panels. Applicants argued these points in the last Office Action, and have read the section in the present Office Action entitled "Response to Arguments." The response in the Official Action, however, does not address the issues argued herein, and the applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that the anticipation rejection should be withdrawn.

With regard to the anticipation rejection of claims 25 and 26, which include one or more of the elements argued above, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection should be withdrawn for the same reasons as argued above.

Turning now to the rejection of claim 27 as obvious² over Richardson in view of Budd. The Office Action states that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have added the drip edge to Richardson's roof panel as taught by Budd to provide a designer's preference for the water to travel under the roof. The applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 27 specifies at least one roof panel including an exterior surface and an interior surface, the interior surface including a longitudinally extending drip edge that provides a discontinuity in the interior panel surface, and wherein the roof panel is closely adjacent to the support web.

The roof panel as disclosed in Richardson and the drip edge as disclosed in Budd cannot be combined to arrive at the rejected claim, and/or function in the same manner as disclosed in the present application. More specifically, the drip edge 10 as disclosed in Budd,

² "To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, ... there must be some suggestion or motivation ... to modify the references or to combine reference teachings ... [, and] the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest 'all' the claimed limitations. (Internal quotations added). See MPEP § 2142.

is a prefabricated corner assembly that is attached to an exterior end or corner of the roof. (Column 2, lines 20-41). The drip edge (10) may also be utilized to prevent discontinuities or gaps near the roof edge. (Column 2, lines 7-13). Therefore, if the roof panel in Richardson were to be combined with the drip edge in Budd, a prefabricated corner assembly located at an *exterior end* or corner of the roof panel for preventing discontinuities or gaps near the roof edge would result. Such a combination would *not* result in a drip edge that provides a *discontinuity* in the interior panel surface, nor one located on an *interior* surface of the roof panel. The applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that the obviousness rejection should be withdrawn.

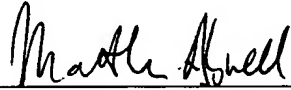
In light of the foregoing, the prompt issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the examiner have any questions, he is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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